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are engraved with characters having no intelligible meaning and incapable of translation. Their significance was private and



only understood by their owners: mascots. Many are "good luck" tokens for friends, travelers, and hunters. Other scarabs have intricate designs, some symmetrically arranged. The last one above



shows a variation of the floral design which symbolized the union of the "two lands" of Upper and Lower Egypt into one kingdom. Other scarabs show more intricate decorative patterns of scrolls without other special significance.

CHARLES R. GILLET.

THE CURATORSHIP OF PAINTINGS

FOLLOWING an intention of long standing, Mr. George H. Story tendered his resignation of the Curatorship of Paintings in November, but action was not taken upon it until the meeting held on January 18, 1906, as it was desired to avail of his services as long as

possible, and until his successor should be appointed. In accepting the resignation the Trustees have appointed Mr. Story *Curator emeritus*, on salary, with the privilege of availing themselves of his experience and judgment.

Mr. Story's connection with the Museum as Curator of Paintings has been continuous since 1889. He has twice been in charge of the Museum as Acting Director, once in the summer of 1900 and again after the death of General di Cesnola, November 20, 1904, until the arrival of the new Director, Sir Purdon Clarke, November 30, 1905. During this period he has seen the collection in his charge grow from comparatively modest numbers to its present importance. He has helped to shape the policy of this growth, and the collection as it stands to-day bears witness to his zeal and reflects his constant care.

Mr. Story was born at New Haven, Conn., in 1835. After studying with Charles Hine for two years in his native town, he went to Portland, Maine, and opened a studio, where he remained for one year, going to Washington in 1859. In 1862 he went to Cuba and spent a year in Santo Espiritu and Trinidad, returning to New York in 1863. He afterwards spent two years in study on the Continent. He was elected A. N. A., 1875, and received a medal at the Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia, 1876.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees, held January 26, 1906, Mr. Roger E. Fry was appointed to succeed Mr. Story.

We quote from the *Evening Post* of January 25th:

"Roger E. Fry, who has just accepted the curatorship of paintings at the Metropolitan Museum, is a young English painter who in recent years has achieved a prominent position as a critic and historian of art. He is the son of the Right Hon. Sir Edward Fry, formerly justice in the Courts of Chancery and of Appeal, and a writer on legal, theological, and botanical subjects; was educated at Kings College, Cambridge, at which university he took a degree in science after attaining that in arts, and pursued the study of painting, first with Francis Bate and afterwards at Paris. He is thirty-nine years old. His devotion to art criticism is of about ten years' standing. How rapidly he has come forward may be judged by the fact that on the retirement of Sir Edward

Poynter, Mr. Fry's name was seriously considered for the Directorship of the National Gallery.

"Mr. Fry has published monographs on the Bellini and Paul Veronese, and has lately completed a new edition of Sir Joshua Reynolds's 'Discourses on Painting,' which, in its annotation is a model of scholarly acumen and good sense. Possibly his most serious contribution to art history is the series of articles on Italian painting before Giotto,

which appeared in the *Monthly Review* about five years ago. Though Mr. Fry's personal predilection is for the early Italian school, in which the Metropolitan Museum is very weak, he is conversant with all the European schools. As a contributor to the *Burlington Magazine* and as art critic and reviewer for the *Athenaeum*, he has displayed in many fields not only accurate connoisseurship, but, what is rarer, genuine critical capacity."

NOTES

PROFESSOR EDWARD S. MORSE, Keeper of Japanese Pottery in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, has accepted an invitation to prepare labels and a manuscript catalogue of the Japanese pottery in our Museum, with a view to the identification and systematic classification of the specimens in the various collections according to province, period and makes.

Mr. John H. Buck of this city is already engaged upon work of a similar kind in connection with the gold and silver plate in the Museum.

Mr. Frank Sherman Benson has kindly consented to assist in the arrangement and installation of the Ward collection of Greek coins, recently presented to the Museum by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan. An excellent illustrated catalogue of this collection, by Mr. G. F. Hill, of the British Museum, has been published as a part of Mr. John Ward's "Greek Coins and their Parent Cities" (London: John Murray, 1902).

Miss G. M. A. Richter is preparing the text for the labels of the Greek vases recently purchased, with income from the Roger's Fund of Messrs A. & C. Canessa, and classifying them for exhibition in an arrangement which shall show the development of the art of vase-painting among the Greeks.

By vote of the Trustees, the office of Assistant Curator of Art Objects and Textile Fabrics has been abolished, and Mr. P. H. Reynolds, who held that position, has been appointed Registrar of the Museum.

ATTENDANCE.—The holiday season lessens the attendance at the Museum. The record for December shows 53,418 visitors; of this number, 21,897 persons came on the five Sundays.

The figures for the same month in 1904

were 37,505, total attendance, and 13,086 for the four Sundays.

The total attendance for the year 1905 was 744,042; showing a gain of 19,984 over the year 1904.

THE LIBRARY.—The most notable addition of the month is a work, which is itself remarkable among modern examples of typography, in fact, among all printed books. This book, contained in two giant folio volumes, is entitled: *The Bishop Collection. Investigations and Studies in Jade. New York, Privately Printed, 1906.* The "Bishop Collection" is, of course, the collection bequeathed to the Metropolitan Museum by the late Heber R. Bishop.

Of this monumental work one hundred copies have been printed, under the terms of the will of Mr. Bishop, three of which have been deposited in the Museum, one for use in the Library, one for exhibition, and one for preservation.

The next number of the Bulletin will contain an article, by Mr. George F. Kunz, about this remarkable book.

The door leading into the Library from the picture galleries has been glazed, thereby offering a glimpse of the privileges to be enjoyed within. It is hoped that students will avail themselves of the invitation thus extended.

A supplementary number of the Bulletin for March will be devoted to the interests of the Library.

RECENT LOANS.—Owing to lack of space in the last number of the Bulletin, only the briefest mention was made of two interesting loans received in December. These consist of two porcelains added to the Morgan collection and a statue by George Grey Barnard.